GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1475
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
SAFETY OF AFGHANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghans of Indian origin and NRIs who had fled of migrated to India during Taliban regime and after American attacks on Afghanistan have started going back to Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the number of such persons who came to India and the number who has gone back to their homes in Afghanistan after the formation of new Government in Afghanistan ; (

(c) whether these people have been welcomed back in Afghanistan; and

(d) if not, whether the Government secured any assurance from the Government of Afghanistan for the protection of their lives and property?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) _ (d) On account of civil conflict in Afghanistan, and repressive regime of the Taliban , several Afghan citizens, including those of Indian origin had been living in different countries of the world, including India. With the establishment of the Afghan Interim Administration government would encourage Afghan citizens, including those of Indian origin, to return to their country. According to the figures available with the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are about 18,500 Afghans registered in India. In our bilateral interaction with the Afghan Interim Administration, the Afghan leadership has committed itself to protecting all its citizens, including those from minority communities.